

Sherman County Journal

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County Official Paper

These Things We Note

By Giles L. French

The build-up of Nasser as a leader cannot but lead to his down fall if the policies of Dulles continue. Egypt just can't stand the economic opposition of the bigger powers.

T T W N

Sometimes we are politely asked "How big is your newspaper?" which indicates interest but gives us small opportunity to boast. That is an American question for Americans are interested in size, in quantity. Some day we hope some one will ask us "How good is your newspaper?"

T T W N

"Right to work" seems like a funny phrase. What most of us strive for is the income to justify the "right to not work".

T T W N

A few hundred years ago no one had any money but the king and some of the lords, in effect the state. The people rebelled against that and gradually accumulated some capital which they have used to better their economic condition. Those who would return to 1500 in this regard are the oldest fashioned thinkers in the world.

T T W N

That Bulgarian who died several years ago after living 100 years on sour milk has enough followers to get elected to office—if he had made it 120.

T T W N

The man who determines his mature philosophy in times of depression may easily become a radical—one who seeks change: one who comes to maturity in times of security may become a conservative. One who has little security wants change: one who has security wants more of the same.

T T W N

This week's convention will be cooler, climatically and in expressions.

T T W N

Many voters can remember when a Democratic candidate promised to cut taxes 25 per cent. And look what happened.

T T W N

Every man dies with a lot of knowledge and thus the Almighty keeps mankind struggling to obtain the rudiments of learning.

T T W N

Those wanting to borrow money might be lucky if they find it hard to do: easy borrowing sometimes makes hard paying.

T T W N

The man who said "It never rains but it pours" couldn't have been more wrong. Sometimes it drizzles.

T T W N

At a Hollywood party the host and hostess were pushed into the pool. Nothing madder than a wet movie actress.

T T W N

If we had a horse that cost \$1250,000 and he had the colic we would wish we had bought bonds with the money.

T T W N

Those who retire from a job to a hobby stay alive: those who retire to nothing die. Retirement should not be compulsory for many have no hobby.

T T W N

We make a big show of our politics, carry on the job of electing a president in the most expensive way of any nation, expensive in time, in money and in prestige.

T T W N

Maybe its TV and maybe it is the times, anyway something has made our method of nominating presidents seem out of date.

T T W N

The good, we have read, die young. Yet, those who live long enough are also good because it takes so much exercise to be bad.

T T W N

Presumably a man's attitude toward his work is shown by how he spends the first week after his vacation. Resentment or joy are the extremes.

T T W N

The Vancouver Sun expresses some shock over the apparent change in political alignment in the United States "the radical Democratic party, the working man's party, is dead." Let's wait awhile and see if it was ever so, and if it is dead, we doubt both.

T T W N

Some how this election seems unnecessary.

Wheat Growers Want Cake Brkers To Try Butter Cake Recipes

Oregon Wheat Growers are offering \$100 cash to the baker of the best butter cake from one of "wheat" counties. Counties participating in the contest include Baker, Union, Wallowa, Umatilla, Sherman, Wasco, Jefferson, Gilliam and Morrow. To become eligible to enter the contest it is necessary to bake a butter cake, any cake with solid fat, and enter it in the county fair special Oregon Wheat Growers League contest. Premiums at the county level will be \$5.00 first place, \$3.00 second, and \$2.00 third. First place winner will be eligible to enter the State bake-off to be held at Portland in December.

Limitation on kind, shape or flavor are practically non-existent. Cakes can be frosted, unfrosted, filled, unfilled, round, square, oblong, chocolate, white, yellow, pink or just any kind in the "butter" classification. Here is an opportunity for everyone to show their baking skills and perhaps win \$100.

Tractor Contest Coming Sunday

A 4-H tractor operation contest will be held Sunday at 2 p. m., August 26, at the fair grounds said Tommy Thompson, county agent. The contest is being run off at this time to select a contestant for the Oregon State Fair, September 7. Boys in the tractor maintenance 4-H club will participate and the general public is invited.

Contestants will be scored on safety, driving skill and time to move over an outlined course. A written examination on tractor care and safety will be a part of the test.

Arrangements for the event are being made by local 4-H leader, Douglas Alley and Jack Cushman and the county agent, Cushman Equipment, Moro; Hartley Garage, Grass Valley and Eddins Motors, The Dalles will furnish tractors for the contest.

Grain Crop No Record Breaker But Good Enough

Sherman county's grain crop will break no records, unless it be for long sustained hope. It is a good crop, probably 4,000,000 bushels worth some \$7,500,000, but not equal to that of 1948 which was above 4,500,000 bushels and all wheat.

It now seems probable that there will be a little over a million new bushels in the elevators of the Grass Valley Grain Growers when harvest is finished which will be next week. This will probably be nearer 1,100,000 including barley. There is some farm storage in that territory but not extensive, the Eakin elevator holding the largest amount, 80,000 bushels. Of course, farmers will keep seed and some will keep feed.

The central part of the county had the best crop proportionately and the Moro Grain Growers will probably get 1,200,000 bushels of new grain. This will include some from Gilliam county. Farm storage will account for another 100,000 bushels if it is filled this year which is almost certain.

The crop in the north end now going into the elevators of the Sherman Co-op Grain Growers has been disappointing to many. Some had tremendous crops while others were very ordinary. It is estimated that there will be around 1,300,000 bushels of wheat and barley and probably 300,000 of farm storage to come in later or to be hauled by truck.

These are not the final figures; they are estimates based on the expressed opinions of elevator operators and others, but not even an elevator operator knows how much is coming in later.

TO NOTIFY PRESIDENT

Mrs. Collis Moore was named as one of a committee to notify President Eisenhower of his nomination on the Republican ticket. Mrs. Moore is taking office as national committeewoman for the party from Oregon and this will be her first political duty.

Football Players Asked To Appear At School August 27

Beryl Bethke, new coach of the Sherman High school, requests that members and potential members of the football team meet with him at the school house at seven o'clock Monday evening, August 27. The meeting will be for organizational purposes and to get acquainted. All boys who want to try out for the team, freshman and others, are expected.

Mr. Bethke played football at South Dakota and at the University of Minnesota before coming west to Trout Lake, Washington three years ago. He coaches his teams to use the split T formation familiar to local boys.

Gus Reeder Dies At 88 Years

Gustav H. Reeder, for several years a resident of Moro and for most of his life an important citizen of Shaniko, died at The Dalles Wednesday after a long illness.

Mr. Reeder was born at Wheatland, Iowa January 23, 1868 and came to Shaniko to be with a brother when a young man. He engaged in sheep raising, was a saddle maker, deputy sheriff, city marshal and mayor of Shaniko during his nearly 70 years there.

Surviving are two sons, Ralph of Portland, John of Shaniko; three daughters, Elma Lincoe of Fargo, N. D., Marguerite Starr of Albany and Elsie Jones, Moro; two sisters, Minnie Hayes, Shellburg, Iowa and Dora Wright, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, six grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. His wife died in 1951.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. at Spencer & Libby's with the Rev. Ernest Taylor of the Episcopal church officiating. Burial will be in The Dalles.

MOVING HERE

Joe Griggs has bought the Jim Kerr home in Moro and he and family are moving here to be closer to school.

Thunderstorm Breaks Hot Spell After Warm Week

Sharp lightning, rolling thunder, a few drops of rain and a gusty west wind brought a decline to the hot spell of this week Wednesday night and probably ended the very warm weather for the year.

Temperatures crept up to 98 Tuesday which was pretty warm although not hot in comparison with towns on the river. It was good threshing weather and also good swimming pool weather, and the majority who are through threshing were doing just that at beach or in mountain lake.

SHERMAN BARLEY COUNTY

For 1954 Sherman county ranked 90th in the United States in the production of barley a drop from 65th the year before. Production of barley has greatly expanded in recent years because of federal regulations that make the growing of that crop possible and profitable. There is little use for it at prices at which it is held.

From 12,555,936 acres in 1954 farmers harvested 354,716,322 bushels of this amount 57.5 per cent was from the leading 100 counties that produced barley.

Fresno county, California is the long time champion barley county with 1.9 per cent of the nation's total. It produced 13,373,471 bushels in 1954. Sherman county on 33,988 acres produced 1,268,913 bushels of barley that year.

NOTICE TO FAIR EXHIBITORS

The directions, rules, classifications and awards in the National Crochet contest were inadvertently omitted from the Fair Premium Book. This information may be obtained from The Zipper in Moro or by contacting the secretary at Jordon 5-3574.

Also omitted from the Premium Book was the change in the amount of the premium offered for quilts, Class 76. Premium for first awards will be \$5.00 and second awards will receive \$2.50. The same change applies to rugs, Class 77.

Farwell For Johnsons Pre Registration Date Set For Sherman School

The Wasco Methodist church will be the scene of a farewell potluck dinner Sunday, August 26 after church, honoring long time residents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Johnson, who are moving to The Dalles September 1. Everyone interested is invited.

The Johnsons will be greatly missed in the community, as Mrs. Johnson is well known for her musical ability. Many weddings and funerals were beautified by her skill as an organist and pianist, and she has graced many a social function during their years in the community. In late years she has been retired because of poor health, but she graciously consented to play the organ last Christmas Eve at midnight Mass at the St. Mary's Catholic church, and also the Christmas services at the Methodist church. Mr. Johnson served on the official board of the Methodist church for many years and everyone will remember him in the little ante-room behind the organ, faithfully pumping the air, as his wife played the organ for these many enjoyable occasions. We hope this will be a fitting and memorable send-off for these very beloved people.

EXTENSION UNITS TO MEET

Representatives of the extension units in the county will meet with Mrs. Ina B. Hanson, county extension agent at the courthouse Tuesday, August 28. They will discuss next year's program, set dates for training schools, make plans for officers' training day to be held in September.

Charlotte Barnett will represent the Grass Valley unit; Thelma Sather, Kent; Iris Neal, Rufus; Catherine Thomas, Wasco; Sharon Thompson, Moro Tuesday unit; Marjorie Marvin, Moro Wednesday unit. These ladies who were selected by the unit members will organize as a county committee. This committee will meet with Mrs. Hanson at regular intervals to guide and direct the extension program in the county.

BALSIGER VP of NWGD

Wendell Balsiger has been elected vice president of the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers, the organization of the grain trade. He is already vice-president of the North Pacific Grain Growers. The grain dealers move their officers up annually which means that by next year Mr. Balsiger will be president of the northwest grain trade administration.

Snake River, Swift and Violent, Runs Unharnessed While Men Talk of Kilowatts and Storage and Fish

THE RIVER

The Wenaha left its dock at Lewiston early Friday and went up the swift flowing Snake, its 160 horsepower diesels churning up a wake that rocked the little pleasure craft moored along the shore awaiting the weekend recreation time of their owners.

The party of editors, professors, business men and officials of the four private utility firms making up the Pacific Northwest Power group, left the hotel about eight for a 25 mile drive along the west side of the river to meet the Wenaha tied up on a sandy beach. About four hours of time was saved the party, cars moving so much faster than the boat. The road along the river ran through Asotin, a small town that has retained the county seat of Asotin county against the hopes of much larger Clarkston, to the turn of the road at a canyon on its way to Enterprise in Oregon. From there on the road was narrow and rocky and slow although it does permit access clear to the mouth of the Grande Ronde which comes into the Snake along a high bluff on the north side and a grassy bench on the south.

The 29 men boarded the boat with their light luggage and outdoor clothing including unneeded heavy coats and began the two day process of getting acquainted while the diesels pushed the 52 foot craft upstream with a voice dimming roar. The trip was the last of four sponsored by the power companies to acquaint interested citizens and company officials with the two projects now having a hearing before the Federal Power Commission in Washington, D. C. Distance up the Snake to the farthest dam is 73 miles of which approximately 50 miles was made by water.

The Snake is a long river, even before it gets to Weiser, Idaho, and it is a long ways from Weiser to Lewiston, about 170 miles, although there is no accurate chart of that. The famous part of it is Hells canyon and that has been talked about so much in scenic bulletin and political argument that it has come to dominate the entire section of the river that runs between Oregon and Idaho. Yet Hells canyon comprises a bare 30 miles of that long stretch of river. Moreover, almost no one has been through Hells canyon. A few sportsmen run the

river, some in rubber rafts, some in light plywood boats, but commercial boatmen shun it.

The Snake is rough enough for most below and above Hells canyon. It has rapids that held the powerful Wenaha almost stationary for minutes and few places where full power was not used. Even in its quietest stretches the water boils up a gastric green threat from hidden rocks. The Snake falls about 5 1/2 feet per mile compared to about a foot per mile for the Columbia. It is like the Deschutes in many ways only larger. The Deschutes varies from 3 to 5,000 cubic feet per minute in volume and the Snake from 5 to 10,000 cubic feet. The Snake has more rise and fall than the Deschutes. Springs hidden along the deep gorge feed it steadily to keep its flow more even than it would be with its vast irrigation system in Oregon. Idaho uses the Snake, spreading its waters that come down from Yellowstone park, and that of tributary streams, over thousands of fertile acres. And Idaho intends to keep on using the Snake, for without it it would be a desert instead of a garden.

Also the hills bordering the Snake are like Deschutes hills, made of the same kind of lava, growing the same kind of grass, pasturing the same kind of livestock. For the first 25 miles the scenery was almost identical with that that would be seen from a boat churning up the Deschutes. Huge lava cliffs, breaking up into the prisms that characterize volcanic rock in all the northwest, evidence of extrusions of lava in the distant past when the mountains were being formed by pressure from beneath and the resisting surface of the earth was cracked to let the molten rock rush out to cover a new area.

The hills are higher in many places than on the Deschutes but not always and the lava flows on the Snake are often newer than on the Deschutes. They have not been broken down so much by erosion and along the river where the water washes and polishes them they shine like obsidian in the brilliant August sun. Many of the immediately bordering rocks are huge and unbroken as if cast up there recently. It takes a long time to wear a rock away or temper its hardness, even by the abrasion of a swift river.

Almost 50 miles above Lewiston on the Salmon river comes in

from the Idaho side looking more peaceful than at any time in its turbulent course down from the high Rockies through half explored country where it is called poetically the "River of No Return". And a few miles above that the Imnaha breaks in from the Oregon side, a little stream coming out of a gorge on a rifle that engages the attention of thousands of salmon weary of the swift Snake, tired of the long trip from the sea.

From there it is 20 miles farther up to the camp where the party spends the night. The day has worn thin with slow going through heavy rapids which the pilot takes in a manner surprising to the passengers. Often he puts the craft within six feet of a rocky shore and sometimes he crosses a rapids to reach the deeper water. The Wenaha draws 22 inches and makes a well-churned white wake even in still water. In swift water it throws the water from its screws in violent impatience and roars like a wild thing being restrained.

At Pleasant Valley is a camp composed of a cook tent and several sleeping tents erected on wooden floors, electric lighted by a diesel that obediently and noisily, runs all night. On the Idaho side the dirt bank slopes away from the river to make a bit of a pocket compared to the steeper hills and resembles a valley enough to justify the name. A mile or so above it is Pittsburg landing where the road comes in from White Bird on the Salmon from where supplies were trucked in. A few hackberry trees, tough as ironwood, grow as they do all along the river and a little of what is called mahogany, a brush even more like ironwood. It is a rough place for trees, rocky soil and annual flood. A sort of grass is getting started along the river, a grass that looks like Johnson grass but it will probably never compete with the bunchgrass that grows on the hills.

The Wenaha goes on up river to tie up for the night at Pittsburg landing. It is about 16 feet across with a two foot passageway along each side and a main deck some three feet lower where the passengers congregate unless they are standing braced against the railings watching the river. Some ride on the bow, defying the spray or on the fantail watching the wake. The pilot stands behind his huge wheel with eyes glued

to the river changing places now and then with a young man with Joe written across his seldom worn shirt. A lone deck hand watches the engines, cooks the meals in a little galley behind the pilot house, loads and unloads cargo, light in the case of passengers.

On the way down river Saturday the pilot rushed through some rapids at full throttle trying to keep pressure for the rudder, in others he floated like a chip, able to determine from experience where to press ahead and where to take it easy. The down trip takes but five hours and they are unhurried hours.

THE FISH

The vast Columbia is a great salmon stream, sending millions of salmon of many kinds upriver to gravel beds to spawn every year at various times. Here at Pleasant Valley the state of Idaho has a crew of four young men headed by Bob Bell, OSC graduate, who are engaged in trapping fish, marking them and trying to determine their habits. Bell estimates that at least 60 per cent of the salmon that come up the Snake turn off into the Salmon and some in to the Imnaha. Oscar Halpin, an old resident in charge of the camp, says that few salmon try to run Hells canyon. A salmon passing the mouth of that stream whether from forgotten direction or misplaced inheritance has about 80 miles to go before he can find another place to get out of the rushing water. That would be the Powder river and a little above that, the Burnt, neither which gets many salmon.

So far the crew has trapped 80 salmon at Pleasant Valley or nearby and has caught 121 small salmon returning to the sea for their long stay in salt water before returning to their rendezvous with procreation and death. No one knows what percentage that is so far but soon the Idaho Power company will start catching all the salmon in the river and hauling them above its Brownlee dam site. Then the number of salmon running the swift Snake through Hells canyon will be known. So far it is a guess and worse than that, a political guess.

The fish boys are catching some steelhead, that terrifyingly ugly monster of deep and swift streams and a surprisingly large

number of channel catfish, which are a game fish of the same species as the mud cats more widely known.

If it is proven that salmon in large numbers use the Snake above the Imnaha and the Salmon rivers, the power companies have \$4,500,000 budgeted to build ladders for them. In Idaho, where most of the dams are reclamation dams no provision was made for fish. It is too far for a salmon to swim and expect his progeny to get back to the ocean. Fish ladders would be for the use of salmon using the Powder and Burnt and perhaps the Malheur and Payette rivers.

THE DAMS

The Pacific Northwest Power company is a consolidation of four northwest utility companies, the Washington Waterpower, the Montana Power, the Pacific Power & Light and the Portland General Electric, banded together to try and get permission from the federal and state governments involved to build some dams to make power to sell. They have investigated a couple of dams on the Clearwater, which flows into the Snake at Lewiston, and the Penny Cliffs site is still being considered although major interest now centers on two sites on the Snake. First of these in distance from Lewiston is Mountain Sheep from a gravity type dam, 55 miles above that city it would be 255 feet high and 600 feet long and be capable of producing 432,000 kilowatts which is just a little below that of Bonneville.

The bigger dam is the Pleasant Valley, just below the camp. It would be 534 feet high and 1200 feet long and would be capable of producing 1,014,000 kilowatts at maximum capability. This doubles Bonneville. It would be one of the highest concrete arch dams in the world, being surpassed by one in France and one in Switzerland and tied by one near Seattle. Mountain Sheep would back water to Pleasant Valley and Pleasant Valley would back water to the Idaho Power company's Hells canyon dam, which the Federal Power commission has now authorized, not without controversy.

The plan of private industry on the Snake is to build five dams which, it maintains, are large enough to hold the average run of the river long enough to produce power at the time of year it

is needed. The purpose of a dam is to raise the level of the water high enough to give a greater head so that more power is produced than by river run. Another purpose is to store water so that it can be used at another time. Less power is used in summer so it is convenient to produce kilowatts in the winter. The demands of industry are more constant than those of home users. Kilowatts cannot be stored, water can, but storing more than is needed is not economical or necessary.

Private power companies think that by running the water of the Snake through five turbines with the storage provided it will result in more efficient use than by running it through two dams as proposed by public power enthusiasts.

Public power advocates want big dams, 800 foot dams, which may not be filled every year. They do not want too many of them but seem obsessed by size, a sort of Cadillac complex.

It is an engineering problem and not one that layman can pass upon without conferring with engineers which means that it is still an engineering problem. The comparison is between five dams, big, but not stupendous, and five sets of turbines against two dams, huge and record breaking, and two sets of turbines. The element of time may be considered for small dams can be built more quickly than large ones. And the companies stand ready to start them now with their own money; the high dams are deeply involved in politics.

Test drillings have been made at both Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley and have been called satisfactory. To the layman it would be possible to build a dam anywhere along the Snake, but engineers must drill to determine the hardness of rock and the presence of fissures which must be filled with cement to hold the tremendous pressures. These cores are kept and checked by consulting engineers. They are made with a diamond drill that brings out about a two inch sample of rock from a hole that may be 200 feet deep. Already over a \$1,000,000 has been spent on preliminary tests and the companies could go ahead on short notice to building the dams, the road is in to Pittsburg landing for Pleasant Valley and in from Joseph to Dug bar for Mountain Sheep.